





The same principle of accountability applies in the case of Joyce Echaquan at the Joliette Hospital – its senior management, and that of the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de Lanaudière, must be held accountable. Senior management is responsible for the conduct of its staff. Lack of knowledge is not an excuse. It is the duty of senior management to know, and to prevent or correct misconduct. Failure to meet this duty must have consequences.

Grand Chief Abel Bosum stated:

*“There is racism in Quebec and until we can put aside the petty arguments over semantics on whether it is systemic or not, until political leaders can put aside their pride and reach out to the other side instead of waiting for an invitation, until leaders have courage to show each other empathy without anticipation of gratitude, Quebec will be divided and fall short of its full potential.”*

Let the death of Joyce Echaquan not be in vain. Let it be the shock that ends the culture of impunity and establishes accountability throughout the public services in their dealings with Indigenous persons.

It is time for the Government of Quebec to take practical action and sit down with First Nation leaders to play an active role in the implementation of the Calls for Action of the Viens Commission. It will not be easy and will require patience on both sides as the weight of history is against us.

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